(e) the number of Allopathic and Homoeopathic pharmacists retired, from CGHS Delhi region during last three years;

(f) the number of Homoeopathic pharmacists who joined, CGHS Delhi region during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) 64 posts of pharmacists (allopathic) and 1 of pharmacist (homoeopathic) are lying vacant. Interviews for filling up of the posts of allopathic pharmacists were held and based on the performance of the candidates, offers for appointment have so far been issued to 31 candidates.

As the Ministry of Finance had directed that no vacancies in CGHS should be filled up without implementation of report of the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Department of Expenditure. The report was implemented after having discussed with the staff side also. With the issue of orders for implementing the report of the SIU, action to fill up the vacancies was initiated.

(e) 26 allopathic pharmacists and 2 homoeophathic pharmacists retired from service during last three years.

(f) 6 homoeopathic pharmacists have joint duty during the last three years.

**Improvement of district hospitals in Maharashtra**

1593. SHRI Y.P.TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allotted to district hospitals for their improvement in Maharashtra; and

(b) how many district level hospitals in the State are having facilities for heart operations and kidney transplantation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 131.18 crore has been approved for the State of Maharashtra by the National Programme Coordination Committee in the Ministry during the current Financial Year for upgrading the health institutions to Indian Public Health Standards including 23 District Hospitals.

(b) District Level Hospitals are tertiary care centres but not Super Speciality Centres. They are not envisaged to have facilities for heart operations and kidney transplantation. Under the Indian Public Health Standards, Super Speciality Services including Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery and Nephrology are envisaged at District Level Hospitals, which have 301 to 500 beds.

**Advertisement on medicines**

†1594. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Government is aware that patients are getting attracted by grand advertisements of costly medicines for serious diseases like T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer etc. appearing in newspapers, journals and on television channels;

(b) whether all such medicines being advertised are approved and licensed by Government and are fully safe for the health of patients;

(c) if so, the criterion for selling these medicine after their approval as well as granting license for their production; and

(d) the authority responsible for fixing indiscriminate prices of these medicines together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The office of Drugs Controller General (India) has informed that it has not received any such report that patients are getting attracted by grand advertisements of costly medicines for serious diseases like T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer, etc. Further, advertisement of drugs for the cure of certain disease like T.B., diabetes, asthma, blood pressure, cancer etc. is prohibited under Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 administered by the State Government.

(b) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act medicines are permitted to be manufactured only under a license granted by State Licensing Authorities appointed by State Government after ensuring their safety, efficacy and quality.

(c) The Drug formulations are sold by the registered chemists under a license and in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under.

(d) Prices of the drugs are regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

**Supply of medicine by untrained persons**

†1595. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in many chemist shops, medicines are being sold by untrained persons instead of qualified and trained persons i.e. pharmacists and on several occasions this has resulted in tragic incidents with patients because of wrong medicines supplied to them; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of Government and the action taken by Government in this regard and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 the Licensing Authorities appointed by the State

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.